"*King in Black* is an event that is audacious, viscerally gripping and hell-bent on raising the stakes." – AIPT

KING IN BLACK

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KING IN BLACK

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CHAPTER ONE
REIGN

HE'S HERE.

WE CAN *FEEL* HIM, SCREAMING THROUGH THE BLACK, RACING TOWARD THE WHOLE OF CREATION...

HIS HANDS WRAPPING AROUND THE WORLD'S THROAT.

CAP? IT'S ME...

THIS IS IT.

NO MORE RUNNING.

NO MORE HIDING.

IT'S TIME.

KNULL. THE LORD OF THE ABYSS...

...THE GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES...

...HAS ARRIVED.

Hop

THE CALL GOES OUT.

ALL HANDS ON DECK.

IF THE PLAN HOLDS, THE EVACUATIONS WILL START ANY SECOND NOW.

MY *OTHER* CAN ALREADY FEEL THE PANIC RISING IN THE AIR.

I SENSE IT TRYING TO CALM MY NERVES AS WELL...

BUT IT'S NOT KNULL THAT'S MAKING MY HEART SKIP...

NO. THAT FEAR WILL COME LATER...

RIGHT NOW, I'M SCARED...

...OF THIS.

TINEY COMICS

OF WAKING **MY SON** UP INTO THIS NIGHTMARE.

DYLAN'S BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH.

HE DESERVES BETTER THAN THIS. DESERVES TO BE INNOCENT. TO BE A CHILD.

I WISH ON EVERY DISAPPEARING STAR IN THE SKY THAT I COULD JUST LET HIM SLEEP.

THAT MY SON NEVER HAS TO FACE THE HORRORS OF THIS WORLD I HAVE BROUGHT HIM INTO.

THAT HE NEVER HAS TO INHERIT MY DARKNESS.

DYLAN?

WH... HEY... WHAT'S--

I'M SORRY, BUDDY. BUT--

I KNOW. I CAN FEEL IT TOO.

HE'S HERE, ISN'T HE?

...

YES. NOW, LISTEN TO ME. WE NEED TO--

--MOVE! COME ON, PEOPLE, IT'S GO TIME. GROUND TEAMS AND EVACUATION SHIPS ARE MOBILIZING IN DROP SITES AS WE SPEAK, BUT WE ARE ON DECK FIRST.

LET'S GET MEAN, SHALL WE?

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN. NOW.

TONY? WHERE ARE WE?

HARD TO SAY, CAP. FROM THE INTEL THAT BROCK GAVE US, WE KNOW THAT KNULL AND HIS SYMBIOTE HORDE DON'T LEAVE HEAT SIGNATURES.

SO WE DON'T HAVE AN EXACT LOCK JUST YET. BUT THEY'LL TRIP OVER OUR LAND MINES EITHER WAY.

IS THAT WHAT WE'RE CALLING THEM?

SILVER LININGS, CAP.

"HAVING A LEFTOVER ARMADA OF DERELICT KREE AND SKRULL WARSHIPS FLOATING AROUND IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE MIGHT JUST GIVE US THE EDGE WE NEED."

YOU JUST LIKE TURNING THINGS INTO BOMBS.

OLD HABITS. HEY, SPEAKING OF BOMBS, ANY WORD ON THE BIG MAN YET?

STILL WAITING. I'D SAY A PRAYER IF I WERE--

HEADS UP!

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS, BOYS.

LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND THEM...

"...BUT WE'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER BOMB."

PFFT.

HOW DARE YOU.

FIRE!

VWWAAAAAAAAAMMMMM

CLOSING IN, EDDIE! HAVE TO HURRY!

I KNOW! WE HAVE TO GET DYLAN TO SAFETY BEFORE--

AGHH!

AGH!

DAD?!

THAT'S A HIT!

OKAY, NOW WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT MY--

EDDIE! DO YOU FEEL IT?! IT WASN'T--

IT DIDN'T WORK. TOOK OUT AT LEAST A HUNDRED OF THEM, BUT IT DIDN'T EVEN **SLOW THEM DOWN.** OH MY GOD...

...BOMBS.

...HE CAN'T BE STOPPED.

ALL TEAMS, MOVE! MOVE! MOVE!

THIS IS NOT A DRILL, PEOPLE! THIS IS IT!

THIS IS--

THE KING IN BLACK

PETER GAVE US ACCESS TO THIS SAFE ROOM AFTER WE CAME CLEAN TO THE AVENGERS ABOUT KNULL.

SAID IT WAS BUILT FOR HIM BY SOMEONE NAMED EZEKIEL. SUPPOSEDLY IT CAN SURVIVE A ***NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST.***

I JUST PRAY IT CAN WITHSTAND WHAT'S COMING ***NOW...***

DAD, ***PLEASE*** DON'T DO THIS. DON'T LEAVE ME IN HERE!

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS. IT'S NOT UP FOR DISCUSSION. I HAVE TO--

I CAN ***HELP!*** YOU KNOW WHAT I CAN ***DO,*** DAD. I HAVE POWERS LIKE HIM!

MAYBE I CAN...I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE I CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THE HIVE, OR-- OR--

DYLAN, THAT'S ***ENOUGH!***

I MADE YOU A ***PROMISE.*** I TOLD YOU I WOULD PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT, SON. AND I...

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO HAVE THIS LIFE.

THIS IS ***MY*** FIGHT. THESE ARE ***MY*** MISTAKES.

YOU...

YOU DON'T DESERVE THE THINGS I'VE PASSED DOWN TO YOU.

I'M GOING TO END THIS.

NOW, ***PLEASE...*** THIS IS THE LAST THING I'LL ASK OF YOU.

STAY HERE.

AND IF ANYONE BESIDES ME OPENS THIS DOOR--

DAD...

PLEASE COME BACK.

PLEASE.

I LOVE YOU, SON.

KLANG

BROCK?

YEAH, CAP.

PLAN B.

...I KNOW.

PLAN B MEANS THINGS HAVE GONE TO @#$%.

IT MEANS KNULL AND HIS ARMIES OF DRAGONS HAVE BROKEN THE PERIMETER OF EARTH AND MAKE LANDFALL.

FIRST WAVE IS GROUND. CAP HAS ASSEMBLED AN EVACUATION TEAM OF STREET-LEVEL HEROES WITH A FOCUS ON ELECTRICITY-BASED POWERS.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TO GO ON, BUT WE KNOW KNULL'S ONLY WEAKNESSES ARE LIGHTNING, COSMIC POWER AND MAYBE MAGIC...

...BUT WE'LL SEE.

THAT BEING SAID...WE'RE A LITTLE SHORT-STAFFED.

TONY! ANY WORD FROM ***THOR?***

IT'S...IT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD DOWN HERE.

THESE DRAGONS ARE EXPLODING INTO THE CITY! COVERING EVERYTHING IN SYMBIOTES! GIVE ME SOME GOOD NEWS!

*NOTHING YET. BUT OUR OTHER BIG GUN IS ENTERING ORBIT **NOW.** SHOULDN'T BE LONG.*

WE NEED BACKUP **NOW,** TONY!

IRON MAN, CAPTAIN...PLEASE EXCUSE THE INTRUSION INTO YOUR MINDS...

THIS IS CHARLES XAVIER. IF YOU REQUIRE BACKUP, PLEASE...STAND BY.

SECOND WAVE: WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK.

MY X-MEN HAVE ARRIVED.

SECOND WAVE IS AIR.

WE NEED TO SEVER THE CONNECTION KNULL HAS OVER HIS DRAGON HORDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

I UNDERSTAND THOR'S ABSENCE IS A SIGNIFICANT HURDLE.

SURELY A GOD OF THUNDER WOULD BE HELPFUL. BUT... MAY I SUGGEST A GODDESS OF THE--

CHARLES, PLEASE...

I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE.

THIRD WAVE...

THIRD WAVE IS *THE WORST.*

CAP HAS THE EVACUATION IN ACTION, AND STORM IS BRINGING THE HEAT. EVERYONE IS ASSEMBLED AND WAITING ON YOU.

WE ARE MOVING INTO POSITION NOW...

...BECAUSE THIS ONE IS ALL ON ***US.***

THIS SPIRE IS LEFT OVER FROM CARNAGE'S ASSAULT ON NEW YORK. IT'S HOW HE WAS ABLE TO CONTROL HIS HORDES.

WITH ANY LUCK, IT WILL ALLOW US TO SAFELY CONNECT TO THE HIVE WITHOUT BEING CONSUMED BY IT.

EMPHASIS ON THE WORD "LUCK."

STILL. WE HAVE TO TRY.

IF ***STORM*** OR THE OTHERS CAN BREAK THE DRAGONS OUT OF THE HIVE WITH LIGHTNING OR MAGIC, THEN MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEM FROM HERE.

MAKE OUR ***OWN*** ARMY.

OR...

...KNULL FINDS US IMMEDIATELY AND CHOKES US TO DEATH WITH OUR OWN SYMBIOTE.

EITHER WAY...

...TIME'S UP.

@#$%! IT.

LET'S GO.

THIS IS DOCTOR STRANGE BROADCASTING ON ALL RADIO, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL PLANES! IF YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE, PLEASE COME IN!

THESE DRAGONS ARE UNLIKE ANY I HAVE FACED! THEY ARE BREAKING THROUGH MY BARRIERS AS FAST AS I CAN CAST THEM!

I CAN HEAR YOU! SEE YOU! STRANGE, HOLD ON! WE ARE ALMOST THROUGH TO THE CORE! I NEED MORE--

I CANNOT-- AGH!--HOLD THEM--BACK! PLEASE! CAN ANYONE--

DAMMIT, WE'RE LOSING STRANGE!

WE'RE **LOSING**, BROCK! WE NEED YOU TO GET IN RIGHT NOW!

NOW, EDDIE!

AGGGHH!!! I'M IN!!! I CAN SEE IT!

I CAN SEE IT, TONY. IT'S...

OH GOD...

OH GOD, RUN! **RUN!!!**

IT'S NOT JUST THE DRAGONS! IT'S NOT JUST KNULL!!!

WHAT--WHAT AM I **LOOKING** AT... I CAN'T...

TONY! CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S EDDIE! YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF THERE!

THIS IS HOW IT **STARTED.** BEFORE THE SYMBIOTES... BEFORE THE DRAGONS...

KNULL'S FIRST ENEMIES WERE **THE CELESTIALS...**

...AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S SETTLED THE SCORE!

KRUNCH

AH...

I SEE MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME...

...SO I WON'T WASTE YOUR TIME...

I AM GOING TO KILL YOUR WORLD.

IN THE MEANTIME, I AM LOOKING FOR A HUMAN NAMED BROCK.

SO BRING HIM TO ME, AND THIS CAN BE AS PAINLESS AND AS QUICK AS I AM CAPABLE.

THAT IS ALL.

OKAY, EVERYONE BACK! GET BACK!

ARE YOU CALLING A RETREAT?

TONY, THE GAME HAS CHANGED! WHERE THE HELL IS THE--

GETTING A LOCK ON HIM NOW! BE CAREFUL, KNULL'S RIGHT ON TOP OF--

WELL, LOOK AT THIS.

A WELCOMING PARTY FOR MY CORONATION.

HOW NICE...

AND WHO ARE YOU ALL SUPPOSED TO BE?

CAP! I HAVE A LOCK ON THE BIG GUN! HE'S INBOUND NOW!!! TEN SECONDS!!!

NORMALLY, WE'RE THE LAST THING *GUYS LIKE YOU* EVER SEE.

BUT TODAY?

WE'RE JUST HERE TO WATCH.

HE'S HERE AND AWAITING YOUR ORDERS, CAP. PERMISSION TO ENGAGE?

PERMISSION GRANTED.

GO INTRODUCE YOURSELF, SENTRY.

YES, SIR, CAPTAIN.

"IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE."

BOOM

NO!!!

YOU! I'LL KILL YOU FOR—

HI.

MY NAME'S BOB.

YOU CAN CALL ME ***THE SENTRY.*** THIS WILL ALL BE OVER IN A--

OH, THERE'S NO NEED FOR ANY OF THAT...

MY HORDE HAS MEMORY OF YOU.

YOU ONCE KILLED THE ONE CALLED CARNAGE.

NOW...

...LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF...

OH MY GOD...HE'S GOING TO--

NGGHHH, NO...THE VOID... YOU'LL RELEASE HIM AND--

I AM THE VOID.

CHILD...

...I AM KNULL.

"LORD OF THE ABYSS.

SENTRY?! BOB!!!

GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES.

"THE DARKNESS INSIDE OF YOU?

THAT DARKNESS BOWS TO ME.

CAP! GET OUT OF THERE NOW! CAP, DO YOU HEAR ME? WE HAVE TO REGROUP! WE CAN'T WIN THIS RIGHT NOW!

WE ARE OUT OF OPTIONS, CAP! RUN!!!

TONY...

...THERE'S ALWAYS ONE MORE THING YOU CAN DO.

SECURE THE CITY. GET AS MANY PEOPLE CLEAR AS YOU CAN.

WE'LL HOLD THE LINE.

AVENGERS?

ASSEMB--

WAS THAT IT, THEN? YOUR DEFIANT LAST STAND?

I MUST SAY... I'M NOT TERRIBLY IMPRESSED. I HAD HOPED THE MIGHTY EARTH WOULD HAVE PROVEN MORE...WORTHY OF A BATTLE...

ALAS... YOU WILL FALL LIKE THE REST.

I HAVE MET YOUR ARMIES, LITTLE ONES.

MEET MINE.

THE GROUND! IT'S--

GUYS! HOLD ON, I CAN--

NO! GET OUT OF HERE, SPIDER-MAN! GET HELP!

CAP, PLEASE COME IN! I'M LOSING YOU.

THERE-- THAT'S MUCH BETTER.

NOW... LET'S MAKE SURE WE AREN'T INTERRUPTED FURTHER...

CAP? YOUR CONNECTION IS CUTTING OUT!!! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

STEVE!

THIS SKY OF YOURS...

NO MORE DISTRACTIONS...

NO MORE OF YOUR SUN...

NO MORE STARS.

NO MORE LIGHT...

AH... YOU SEE?

"ISN'T THIS SO MUCH BETTER?"

UM, CHARLES? TONY? CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

KNULL...DEAR GOD! HE JUST COVERED THE ENTIRE EARTH IN A SYMBIOTIC DOME.

I'M GETTING REPORTS FROM WAKANDA, LATVERIA, JAPAN...IT'S... EVERYWHERE...

OKAY, SO...I NEED A PLAN HERE. I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP!

HMMM...

HELLO, LITTLE LIGHT...

WE'RE...WE'RE WORKING ON IT. JUST STAY IN THE AIR UNTIL--

UNTIL *WHAT,* IRON MAN?! THIS IS STARTING TO FEEL--

--HOPELESS.

STORM?

EDDIE BROCK, I SWEAR TO GOD YOU TWO BETTER HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR ME, OR I AM GOING TO--

WE KNOW. IT'S BAD.

BUT WE'RE GOING TO TRY SOMETHING.

WE'RE GOING TO GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS.

EDDIE, WE AREN'T THERE YET. DO **NOT** GIVE UP. AND YOU HEARD HIM, HE'LL KILL THE WORLD EITHER WAY!

THEN MAYBE WE'LL JUST BUY YOU GUYS SOME TIME.

BUT WE'RE DONE HIDING.

EDDIE, DON'T--

VENOM OUT.

YOU READY?

YES, EDDIE. I...I CAN REACH OUT DIRECTLY TO HIM. IT WILL...

IT'S GOING TO HURT. I KNOW. BUT...

MUST BE DONE, EDDIE. YES...ONLY WAY...

EDDIE... WANTED TO TELL YOU...

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...

WANTED TO MAKE SURE...YOU KNEW. THAT WE...THAT I--

YEAH...

I KNOW.

LAST DANCE, PARTNER.

YOU READY?

YES, EDDIE.

ALL RIGHT, THEN...

LET'S GO MEET OUR MAKER.

AH...

HELLO, LITTLE ONE...

I HEAR YOU CALLING...

COME TO ME...

JOIN US...

SNAP

AGGGHHH!!

TOSS

LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE CREATED...

CATCH
SEE?
AGH!
DO YOU SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL THE DARK IS?
WITH STILL SO MUCH LIGHT TO KILL...BUT ALREADY...
P-PLEASE... JUST...JUST TAKE ME.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY. IT--
WAIT, I KNOW YOU...
YOU'RE THAT HOST WHO BEAT MY DRAGON... I THOUGHT I KILLED YOU...
HUH. MINDS ARE FUNNY THAT WAY, I SUPPOSE...
I DO APOLOGIZE. THERE'S BEEN A BIT OF CONFUSION...
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU SAID--
MY FAULT, REALLY...
I SHOULD HAVE SPECIFIED WHICH BROCK.

N-NO!!! NO, IT'S US YOU WANT! WE BEAT YOU, YOU SON OF A #$&%@! YOUR FIGHT IS WITH US!!!

LEAVE MY SON ALONE!!!

PLEASE! TAKE ME!

HMMM...

NO.

AGHHHH!!!

I WILL TAKE MY CHILD FROM YOU...

...AND THEN I WILL TAKE YOURS.

BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE MUCH USE FOR YOU, HOST.

NO, PLEASE! PLEASE DON'T--

SHRIEK

HEIRS TO THE THRONE

While his focus on Earth is a recent development, Knull has been readying himself for a war against the light and life for eons, and **the symbiotes**, while arguably Knull's most dangerous and perfect creation, were certainly not the first...

KNULL

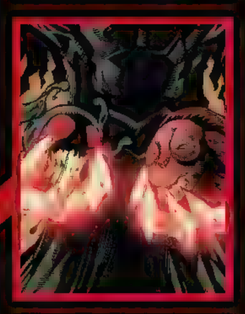
The god and creator of the symbiotes, Knull is the ruler of THE ABYSS, the existential chasm between the destroyed previous universe and the prime reality that took its place. Swearing vengeance on every living thing birthed by ***the Celestials***, Knull gave life to creations of his own...

THE NECROSWORD

Death itself made manifest, the ***Necrosword***, or **All-Black**, was forged in the core of a dead Celestial. The first weapon Knull formed in his war against the light, it is capable of slaying Celestials and can be summoned from the living darkness of which the symbiotes are composed.

THE VOID KNIGHT

Born to combat the ***Silver Surfer***, the ***Void Knight*** would perhaps rank as one of Knull's favorite creations, were the God-King of the Symbiotes capable of such sentiment. The Lord of the Abyss felt a kinship with this powerful and dangerous creation and almost felt regret when the Surfer erased it from existence.



THE SYMBIOTES

Before Knull encountered Thor, he realized that his dragons would not be numerous enough to extinguish life in the universe and return it to its blissful state before the existence of the Celestials. So he began to experiment, manipulating ***darkness*** into a living form. In time, Knull realized that rather than eradicating life, he could simply **corrupt** it.

DARK CARNAGE

Trapped, Knull reached into the psychic darkness of his symbiotic creations, hoping to psychically connect with any receptive host. He did this for lifetimes until he found one in **Cletus Kasady**. Long-dead, Kasady's corpse was obtained by an Earthbound cult that has worshipped Knull for generations. Bonded to the last remnants of an incinerated symbiote dragon, Kasady was resurrected as a new **Dark Carnage** and unleashed absolute chaos on an unsuspecting New York and world...

THE SYMBITOE DRAGONS

Though their origins remain shrouded in mystery, the symbiote dragons were created to surge through space and destroy any life they encountered. Not shackled by vulnerabilities to sonics and fire (unless in the most ***extreme*** amounts), they even reached as far as the Milky Way galaxy and Earth's local solar system. Tormenting humankind, they served as inspiration for chapters of Earth's shared mythology and manifested Knull's wrathful will on an unsuspecting universe.

THE EXOLON

With each attempt at controlling the living Abyss, Knull grew closer to a perfected design. The place he sent the less-successful of his experiments became known as the Exoteric Latitude. An as-yet relatively unexplored region of space, the **Exoteric Latitude** is home to the **Exolon**, creatures that, true to their nature, found hosts in a group of unwitting Kree who happened to drift through their corner of the universe.

THE SYMBIOTE HIVE

As the symbiote species grew, Knull remained psychically connected to all of them. What was once a few dragons or symbiotes became a teeming hive mind with Knull at its center. Ultimately, that connection that proved to be his undoing, as his creations rebelled and entombed him at the heart of what would come to be known as the symbiote homeworld, **Klyntar.**

OTHER EXPERIMENTS

Evidence suggests that there are other organisms in the universe that Knull created, adrift among the stars. Whatever their origins, one thing is for certain — Knull has ***some*** psychic sway over them.

PRE-CREATION

Knull forges the Necrosword and begins the experiments that would eventually become the symbiote species and its offshoots. **(VENOM #1-6, SILVER SURFER: BLACK)**

~1000 BCE

Knull, encased in symbiote armor, battles a mysterious golden god on the homeworld of Gorr the God Butcher.
(THOR: GOD OF THUNDER #6)

~700 CE--1970

Encased in ice at the bottom of the ocean, the Grendel lies dormant, lost to time.

~ONE YEAR AGO

After the dissolution of S.H.I.E.L.D., the frozen Grendel symbiote breaks out of containment and unleashes its fury on an unsuspecting New York City. Aided by the younger Spider-Man, Eddie Brock incinerates the monster, but **the Maker** acquires a small sample of its remains. **(VENOM #1-#6)**

~THREE MONTHS AGO

Dark Carnage launches an all-out assault on the remaining living symbiote hosts, including Venom. With no choice, the Venom symbiote absorbs the Grendel from Cletus Kasady and is once again subsumed into Knull's hive. With enough of the Codex restored to free himself, Knull disperses the symbiotes that form the planet Klyntar around him and reforms them into a horde of hundreds of thousands of dragons — and begins a death march across the universe... **(ABSOLUTE CARNAGE)**

~TWO WEEKS AGO

Eddie Brock warns the Avengers that the Codex is complete and Knull has begun a campaign across the galaxy. Before they can properly mount a counteroffensive and extract all possible intel from Brock, he is swept into the timestream after being ambushed by Mac Gargan.
(FREE COMIC BOOK DAY: SPIDER-MAN/VENOM 2020)

~100,000 YEARS AGO

Knull dispatches the dragon symbiotes into the universe to eradicate all life. **(VENOM #4)**

~600 CE

The dragon symbiotes arrive on Earth and attack man in Scandinavia. Mistaking the creature for an Earthbound beast, humankind names it **Grendel**.

Thor comes to their aid and dispatches the dragon with a bolt of lightning. His attack causes a feedback loop within Knull's symbiote hive that incapacitates the god-king. The symbiotes rebel and entomb their creator. **(VENOM #1-#6)**

~1971

Led by Nick Fury, S.H.I.E.L.D. locates and excavates the Grendel, sampling its genetic material and exposing United States service members to it in small doses.
(WED OF VENOM: VE'NAM)

~TEN MONTHS AGO

The Maker's sample of the Grendel is stolen from his laboratory by a cult that has worshipped Knull for generations. Also in possession of the corpse of Cletus Kasady, the cult bonds the Grendel's remains to Cletus' and the result is the creation of a new, **Dark Carnage. (WED OF VENOM: CARNAGE BORN)**

~ONE MONTH AGO

The interstellar warrior and Guardian of the Galaxy called **Wraith**, convinced that Knull is responsible for the parasitic Exolon that gave him his abilities, arrives at the planet Klyntar. Knull, now freed, acknowledges that the Exolon are one of his experiments and strips Wraith of them. Dying without the Exolon, Wraith teleports to Earth to warn Eddie Brock that Knull is free. **(WED OF VENOM: WRAITH)**

VENOM

Years ago, disgraced reporter Eddie Brock stumbled upon an alien organism during one of the lowest points of his life. Severed from its own collected consciousness, the symbiote found a willing partner in Brock, and the two became **Venom**, a vigilante in their own right, who eliminated the criminal element with extreme prejudice.

#1 VARIANT BY PEACH MOMOKO

CHAPTER TWO
FALL

SMASH

EDDIE!!!

OH MY GOD.

NO. NO, EDDIE, I COULDN'T... I C-COULDN'T GET TO YOU. THERE WERE TOO MANY...

EDDIE, PLEASE! TALK TO ME! I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW WHAT...

HELP!

PLEASE! I NEED HELP!!! ANYONE?! IS THERE--

P-PETE...

DYLAN.

P-PROMISE ME...Y-YOU...

SIGH

HONESTLY, HOW HARD IS IT TO KILL ONE MAN?

AGHHHH!!

I KNOW IT HURTS, BUT WE GOTTA GET YOU HELP. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE. KNULL... HE TOOK THEM. HE KILLED THEM, EDDIE! NOW, COME ON, WE GOTTA--

AGH! SPIDER-SENSE! GET--

ZZAK!

--DOWN!

OH GOD...

HE DIDN'T KILL THEM...

...HE MADE THEM HIS *ARMY.*

AGH!

OKAY... WE--WE GOTTA GO! WE CAN'T FACE THEM, AND NO ONE ELSE IS...

...COMING?

TORCH!!!

HIYA, SPIDEY.

GET EDDIE HELP. TAKE HIM TO THE FF LAB.

I GOT THIS.

FIRE DOESN'T HURT THEM THE SAME WAY, JOHNNY!

DON'T BE STUPID! COME WITH US AND--

GOOD. THEN MY ***NOVA BLAST*** WON'T HURT THE PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE.

BUT IT'LL GIVE YOU ENOUGH TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE.

JOHNNY, YOU CAN'T! YOU'LL PASS OUT AFTERWARD, AND THEY'LL TAKE YOU TOO--

I KNOW.

SO HEY, PETE. DO ME A FAVOR AND TELL EVERYONE I SAID SOMETHING COOL AND HEROIC BEFORE I FELL, YEAH?

"I KINDA HAVE A REPUTATION TO MAINTAIN."

SO I'VE HEARD THE FRANKLY *DIRE* DIAGNOSES. YOU'VE TOLD ME EVERYTHING THAT'S FRACTURED AND BROKEN AND SHATTERED AND RUPTURED AND DISLOCATED...

THE HOME BASE AND LABORATORY OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

...NOW'S THE PART WHEN YOU TELL ME HOW WE FIX HIM, RIGHT, DOC?

DOC?

LISTEN TO ME. I KNOW YOU KNOW OF MY OTHER LIFE AS JANE FOSTER. BUT IN THIS ROLE, AS *VALKYRIE*, I HAVE A...WELL, A GIFT...I SUPPOSE, THAT TELLS ME HOW NEAR A PERSON IS TO DEATH.

AND WHILE I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW WE CAN FIX YOUR FRIEND...

...I WILL TELL YOU THAT WE NEED TO *HURRY.*

OKAY...WELL, JUST--I DON'T KNOW... DO WHAT YOU CAN...

I'M SORRY, BUT I CANNOT STAY. I WILL SOON BE NEEDED ELSEWHERE... THE *SENTRY'S SOUL.* IT IS MY DUTY TO--

YEAH...WELL, I HAVE A JOB TO DO TOO. LET'S JUST HOPE WE BOTH COME BACK TO SOME GOOD NEWS...

"...BECAUSE I'M SURE AS HELL GOING TO NEED IT."

CHUK

HEY... DYLAN. SO LISTEN.

I NEED YOU TO GET PACKED. I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY, BUT--

I HAVE TO GET YOU--

IS HE DEAD?

NOT...

NOT WHEN I LEFT HIM. NO. BUT...

IS MY DAD DEAD?

YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME, BUDDY.

HOLY @#$%.
WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE. BUT... YEAH...
...AGREED.
COULSON IS ALREADY REACHING OUT TO ENLIST THE SQUADRON AND DOCTOR SPECTRUM. SO WE HAVE THAT MOVING INTO--
WHERE THE HELL IS *THOR?* HAS ANYONE--
NOTHING YET. I MEAN, THAT I KNOW OF.
LISTEN. WE HAVE NOTHING BUT MORE BODIES FOR KNULL AND HIS ARMIES UNLESS THE *X-MEN*--
WE HAVE ALREADY LOST TOO MANY OF OUR KIND HELPING YOU, BLADE. NOW, WE CAN HELP FORMULATE A PLAN TOGETHER, BUT--
ARE YOU INSANE? YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU COULD SAVE IF YOU JUST OPENED YOUR GATES AND--
LEAD AN INFINITE ARMY OF DARKNESS INTO OUR LANDS?! TO OPEN OUR BORDERS SO THAT OUR PEOPLE CAN--
THERE IS NO "YOUR PEOPLE" ANYMORE, MAGNETO! THIS THING IS COMING FOR EVERYONE!

HEY. UM.
QUICK QUESTION...
NOT TO INTERRUPT YOUR BIG, SUPER-SECRET MEETING BUT...
IS THERE ANY NEWS ON EDDIE?
IS HE... IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?
NO.
NO CHANGE. BUT...WE'RE WORKING ON IT. WE ARE STILL VERY MUCH UNDER ATTACK, AND IF WE CANNOT GET THIS SPREAD UNDER CONTROL WE WON'T BE ABLE TO--
ON THAT NOTE...
OBVIOUSLY YOU WILL HAVE THE FULL MIGHT OF WAKANDA AT YOUR BACK...
...BUT WHAT OF THE INFINITY STONES? THE COSMIC CUBE? THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER? WHAT DO WE HAVE ON HAND THAT COULD--
WHOA... HEY, ARE WE REALLY DISCUSSING BRINGING THIS KIND OF FIREPOWER ONTO THE BOARD? I MEAN, THIS IS JUST *ONE GUY.*
HE WAS THE FIRST BEING BORN IN THE VOID.
HE'S KILLED CELESTIALS. HE KILLED *THE SENTRY* AND NOW HE'S TAKEN ALMOST ALL THE AVENGERS AND DROWNED THE WORLD IN DARKNESS...
SO YES, I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THE KING OF THE ABYSS SERIOUSLY.
THE "KING OF THE ABYSS," EH?

ADORABLE.

-'SIGH'-

MAN, WHO INVITED NAMOR?

SUE?

GET PAST IT. WE NEED HELP.

CAN...WE SPEAK IN PRIVATE FOR A--

BOOM

MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING IN THE FREEZING DARK FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.

YOU ALL JUST STARTED.

AND YOU ARE *LOSING.*

THE MAJORITY OF THIS PLANET BELONGS TO ME. SO IF THIS KING WANTS A WAR, HE WILL HAVE ONE.

I AM HERE. MY PEOPLE ARE HERE. WE WILL FIGHT.

NOW, DO ANY OF THE *ADULTS IN THE ROOM* ACTUALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF A *PLAN?*

I DO.

YOU'RE GOING TO HATE IT.

AND IT'S INSANE.

AND I'M GOING TO NEED A DRAGON.

WE NEED EDDIE BROCK ALIVE. HE'S THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN BREAK INTO THE HIVE AND GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO KNULL TO SHUT HIM DOWN.

AND THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE HIM NOW IS A SYMBIOTE.

SO I'M GOING TO GET US ONE.

OKAY, I FOLLOW, BUT AREN'T THERE A MILLION OF THOSE THINGS? WHY DO YOU NEED ONE OF THE DRAGONS?

DYLAN, ISN'T *YOUR CAT* A SYMBIOTE?

THE DRAGONS ARE STRONGER. REMEMBER WHEN CARNAGE BONDED TO ONE? HE WAS ALMOST INVULNERABLE...

IRON MAN, IF YOU CAN CONTROL ONE, IF YOU CAN BOND IT TO MY DAD...

EXACTLY.

AND IN THE MEANTIME...I HAVE A FEW OTHER IDEAS...

THE BOTTOM OF THE MARIANA TRENCH.

ONE: NAMOR IS GOING TO GO WAKE UP SOME OF HIS OLD BUDDIES THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW I KNEW ABOUT.

WHAT ARE THEY CALLED AGAIN? THE BLACK TIDE?

I DIDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN CURSED BY ANCIENT ATLANTEAN MAGIC, ANTHONY. AND ONCE THEY ARE AWAKE, IT WILL BE HELL TO BANISH THEM AGAIN.

AND WE'LL FIGHT THAT WAR WHEN WE GET TO IT. BUT YOU AND YOUR ATLANTEAN SOLDIERS JUST AREN'T GOING TO CUT IT HERE.

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, BIG GUY...

...WE NEED AN ARMY THAT CAN FIGHT IN THE DARK.

CHERNOBYL, UKRAINE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH... BLADE?

HOW'S IT GOING WITH THE FANG BRIGADE?

OH, THEY'RE VERY COOPERATIVE.

EAGER, ONE MIGHT SAY...

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE...

...DRACULA?

THE BAR WITH NO NAME.

OKAY, GUYS. THIS LAST ONE IS GONNA STING...

...BUT HAS ANYONE GOTTEN ON THE LINE WITH OUR DULY ELECTED MAYOR?

LOOK, I HEAR YA, LOOT. SEEMS LIKE THIS #$%& HAPPENS ALL THE TIME NOW. IT'S JUST...I DON'T KNOW, MAN. FEELS REALLY BAD THIS TIME.

UGH. REMEMBER WHEN THE HEROES JUST ALL FOUGHT EACH OTHER? THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MAN...

LADIES. GENTLEMEN...

TSS

...WHO WANTS TO MAKE SOME MONEY?

WE'RE WORKING ON IT HERE, TONY. WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?

LIKE I SAID, REED, PRIORITY NUMBER ONE IS GETTING BROCK BACK IN THE FIGHT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO STAND A CHANCE OUT HERE...

...WE'RE GOING TO NEED **VENOM.**

CHOMP

TONY?! TONY, I'M LOSING YOU!

I'M HERE! I HAVE TO BREAK THIS THING'S CONNECTION TO ITS HIVE.

ESSENTIALLY, I HAVE TO REWRITE ITS DNA. BREAK IT DOWN AND REBUILD IT SIMULTANEOUSLY.

LUCKILY...

PSSH

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I INVENTED **EXTREMIS.**

REEEEE!

IT--IT'S WORKING! IT'S-- IT'S TALKING TO ME! WAKING UP!

I'M--I'M ALMOST THROUGH! DAMMIT--REED, THIS IS--

TONY?!

--TOO MUCH! MILLIONS OF VOICES! ALL OF THEM...IN...SO MUCH PAIN! I--I CAN SEE IT ALL!!! IT'S--

--ME, DAD. IT'S DYLAN...

CAN... CAN YOU HEAR ME?

HEY... YOU DOING OKAY?

...NO. I JUST... I WISH I COULD HAVE...DONE SOMETHING...

THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE, DYLAN.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. I HAVE--

MOVE!

IRON MAN!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE FOR KNULL TO OVERWHELM MY REPROGRAMMING, BUT I DID IT.

I GOT ONE.

AND GOD HELP ME, I COULD USE A WIN ABOUT--

WAIT. NO. SOMETHING IS WRONG. DON'T--

--NOW?!

AGHH!

HIS VITALS ARE SPIKING! TONY, WE HAVE TO GET IT OFF OF HIM NOW!

WHAT? NO, THAT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE. I-- I SEVERED THE CONNECTION. HE CAN'T...

KNULL CAN'T BE THAT STRONG.

MOVE! EVERYONE, MOVE! PLEASE--

SOMEBODY HELP ME, DAMMIT! IT'S KILLING HIM!

HEY!

I SAID MOVE!!!

VWAAAAAMMMM

THAT WAS... DYLAN...YOU HAVE POWERS?

YOU--YOU ATOMIZED IT WITH... WITH A--A THOUGHT... DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?

EEEE

OH...

OH, DEAR GOD...

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

...DAD?

#1 DARKNESS REIGNS VARIANT BY RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & FRANK MARTIN

CHAPTER THREE
THUNDER

FOR EVERY DARKNESS, THERE IS A LIGHT.

AN OPPOSITE. AN EQUAL.

BUT NOW...NOW THAT LIGHT IS DIM, WEAK. FOR THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH LIFE TAKEN FROM THE UNIVERSE AS KNULL HAS RAZED HIS WAY ACROSS THE STARS.

BILLIONS OF SOULS GONE. ENTIRE PLANETS DEVOID OF LIFE.

OF *LIGHT.*

I FEEL IT ALL.

THE NOTHINGNESS. THE DEATH, WHERE JOY AND PRAYERS AND LAUGHTER ONCE SANG IN THIS WORLD...

BUT ABOVE IT ALL...

...RINGING OUT TO MY SENSES LIKE A GREAT SIREN ABOVE A RAGING, STORMING SEA...

...IS THE UNBEARABLE SORROW...

...OF A SINGLE FATHERLES, BOY...

...SURROUNDED BY A ROAR OF DEATH, ECHOING ACROSS THE BLACK CANYONS OF A CHOKING WORLD.

REED! WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ***NOW*** IF WE'RE GOING TO DO IT! THERE'RE ONLY SO MANY OF THESE THINGS THAT BLADE AND HIS VAMPIRE ARMY CAN HOLD BACK!

I CAN'T KEEP THESE SHIELDS UP FOREVER! WHAT IS--

THOK

INCREDIBLE. I RECOVERED THIS DRIVE GIVEN TO EDDIE FROM A MAN NAMED WRAITH.* THIS INFORMATION IS ENCRYPTED BEYOND ANYTHING I'VE SEEN, BUT IT SEEMS TO LINE UP WITH WHERE DYLAN'S ENERGY COMES FROM...

IT'S AS IF IT'S..***PULLING*** FROM SOMETHING. SOMETHING NOT FROM THIS WORLD. ITS SIGNATURE IS FAMILIAR SOMEHOW, BUT I CAN'T--

*BACK IN WEB OF VENOM: WRAITH! --EDITOR

REED!!! NOW!

RIGHT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO *DO* THIS. IF YOU SAY NO, I PROMISE I WILL SUPPORT YOU IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO OUT THERE.

OKAY. IT'S TIME. WE ALL HAVE OUR MISSIONS. ABOVE ALL, ***PROTECT DYLAN.***

WOLVERINE AND SPIDER-MAN WILL ESCORT DYLAN OUT ALONG WITH BLADE AND THE VAMPIRES AFTER I BLOW THE DOORS OPEN.

HE'S THE KEY TO FREEING OUR ALLIES AND THEN...THE WORLD.

I'VE GIVEN YOU ALL COMMS EARPIECES. ,BUT XAVIER? SHOULD... YANCY STREET FALL?

YES. I WILL KEEP US ALL CONNECTED.

OKAY, THEN...

EVERYONE... READY?

HEY... DO YOU NEED A--

I NEED...

...TO *HURT* SOMETHING.

BOOM

EVERYONE ON ME. REMEMBER, MOST OF THESE THINGS ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE, BUT UNTIL DYLAN CAN FREE THEM AND GET THEM TO SAFETY--

WAY AHEAD OF YA, WEB-HEAD...

FWOOM

TAKE 'EM DOWN!

YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME, BOY?! YOU ARE *NOTHING* COMPARED TO US! WE WILL DEVOUR THIS PLANET!

AND NOTHING WILL STOP US!

SORRY, CAP...

FWOOSH

...GONNA NEED TO BORROW THIS.

CATH

RAGHHH!

I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, KNULL.

I KNOW YOU'RE CONNECTED TO CAP.

I HOPE YOU CAN FEEL THIS!

AND I HOPE IT HURTS!

AGH!

AH, I SEE... FINALLY...

THERE YOU ARE, CHILD.

UH... GUYS?

I THINK I PISSED HIM OFF!

-KAFFKAFF-

W-WHERE...

AGH!

NO! THAT...THAT POWER... FAMILIAR... BUT...BUT HOW?!

WHA... WHO COULD...

DYLAN?

WHAT...WHAT IS GOING ON? WHERE HAVE I--

IT'S *HIM!* I CAN'T--I CAN'T PUSH HIM BACK!

I'M SORRY!!!

IT'S CALLED *LIGHTNING.*

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO IT, VILLAIN.

YOU MUST BE DYLAN. I AM THOR.

HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE?

JUST HAVE MY BACK. I CAN DO THIS.

LITTLE THUNDER WOULD HELP TOO.

AYE. THAT...I CAN PROVIDE.

FOR EVERY DARKNESS, THERE IS A LIGHT.

AN OPPOSITE. AN EQUAL.

THEY BATTLE, THOR AND THE CHILD OF VENOM.

I CAN FEEL THEM AS I RACE NEARER.

I CAN FEEL THEM, BEATING THE DARKNESS BACK WITH EVERY BREATH IN THEIR LUNGS...

KNOWING THAT THEY WILL FALL.

THAT THEY WILL LOSE.

AND THERE... LORDING OVER ALL OF IT...

KNULL.

BLEEDING WITH EVERY BLOW DEALT BY THESE TWO WARRIORS OF THE LIGHT...

BOOM

AND YET...

YOU!!!

...THE VOID KING RISES ONCE MORE.

DYLAN...

BEHIND ME...

SO YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO SHOW YOUR FACE AND STOP HIDING, AYE?

YOU'RE THE ONE THEY CALL *KNULL*, YES? I RECALL HALF-DRUNKENLY KILLING ONE OF YOUR DRAGON PETS ONCE.

YES. I REMEMBER. BUT YOU...LITTLE GOD...

YOU KILLED ONE OF MY CHILDREN...BUT YOU HAVE NEVER FACED ME. NEVER FACED *ANYTHING LIKE ME.*

I AM THE GOD OF THE VOID. KING OF THE ABYSS. I AM--

QUIET. I AM THE LAST PERSON YOU WILL EVER IMPRESS WITH YOUR PITIFUL TITLES, SO YOU MAY AS WELL STOP NOW.

SO YOU'RE A GOD...AND A KING.

GOOD FOR YOU.

NOW, ALLOW ME TO TEACH YOU WHAT THOSE WORDS TRULY MEAN.

HA!

HGN!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAN TEACH ME ANYTHING...

SHRIP

...BUT I WILL TEACH YOU, LITTLE GOD.

WHUMP

TODAY, YOU LEARN TO DIE.

NO! THOR!

DYLAN-- NO... RUN!

WOOOM

GET OFF OF HIM, YOU--

SILENCE, BOY!

I'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF YOUR INSOLENCE.

N-NO!

WHUD

I WANT YOU TO SEE...

...SEE YOUR HEROES FLAIL AND DIE.

WATCH AS THEY ARE CONSUMED BY MY HORDES...

...JUST AS YOU SHALL BE.

N-NO!!! GET OFF!!!

I--I CAN'T CONTROL THEM!

THERE'RE... TOO MANY...

I...

KRAK

GET. OFF!

HA!

...I'M SORRY...

DON'T YOU SEE? THIS WORLD... IS MINE.

YOU CANNOT STOP ME.

NAY!

MIDGARD IS UNDER MY PROTECTION, AS ARE ALL THE REALMS OF THE WORLD ASH!

I HAVE KILLED HUNDREDS LIKE YOU!!! ALL OF THEM CLAIMED TO BE THE ONE TRUE DEATH!

THE LIVING VOID! THE END!

TO THAT I SAY, I AM KING THOR ODINSON, GOD OF LIGHTNING AND THUNDER AND PROTECTOR OF EVERY REALM IN THIS GALAXY!!!

I SAY WHEN IT ENDS--

--AND I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!!!

KRAKOA

YOU—

YOUR... WORLD WILL BURN FOR... THAT...

no!

VWAAAA

VWAAAA

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, LOOK TO THE SKIES!

EVERYONE, READY YOURSELVES!

KNULL HAS AWOKEN THE CELESTIALS!!!

IRON MAN, THOR, WHO-- WHOEVER IS AVAILABLE, I NEED YOU IN THE--

I HEAR YOU! I AM ON MY WAY!

EVERYONE...

GRAB

EVERYONE WILL BURN...

SBBWAAAAAAAAA!

SPLICH

AGHHH!!!

...AND YOU WILL WATCH.

YOU KNOW THE PAIN OF ALL-BLACK. DON'T YOU?

WELL...NOW YOU'VE HAD THE HONOR OF BEING KILLED BY ITS CREATOR.

DAMMIT! ANYONE! CAN ANYONE READ ME? WE NEED A PLAN!!! WE'VE LOST THOR, AND THOSE THINGS ARE GOING TO--

REED, CALM DOWN. THIS IS TONY. I'VE GOT THIS.

SOMEONE NEEDS TO GET THAT KID OUT OF THERE RIGHT NOW THOUGH!

YOU--YOU'VE GOT THIS? HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO FIGHT TWO CELESTIALS, TONY?

YOU REMEMBER THAT EXTREMIS-INFECTED SYMBIOTE I GOT AHOLD OF?

SKRULL

WELL, SINCE THE KID FREED IT FROM ITS HIVE... WE'VE BEEN GETTING ALONG A LITTLE BETTER.

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND... SO YOU HAVE A DRAGON, I DON'T---

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S **NOT** A DRAGON.

IT'S WHATEVER I WANT IT TO BE. SO HOW AM I GONNA BEAT TWO CELESTIALS?

I'M NOT.

I'M GOING TO USE THIS DRAGON TO OVERRIDE ONE OF THEM AND MAKE IT MY NEW FAVORITE ARMOR...

...AND THEN?

WELL, **MR. FANTASTIC.** YOU EVER PLAY ROCK 'EM SOCK 'EM ROBOTS?

FOR EVERY DARKNESS, THERE IS A LIGHT.

AN OPPOSITE.

CLANG

AN EQUAL.

I AM THE ONLY FAMILY YOU HAVE NOW.

COME WITH ME. LET US TALK...

...MY SON.

NO!

THERE IS ANOTHER. AN OPPOSITE OF KNULL. A GOD OF LIGHT. *THE SOURCE OF DYLAN'S POWER...*

HUGINN, MUNINN...SWIFTLY... *FIND HIM!*

BUT WHILE KNULL'S DOME STILL STANDS, IT CANNOT BREAK THROUGH.

BUT I...

I CAN...

NOW THEN...DYLAN BROCK.

THE CHILD OF MY CHILDREN.

DO NOT BE AFRAID.

...AND I AM ON MY WAY.

01 VARIANT BY **SUPERLOG**

CHAPTER FOUR
LIGHTNING

DYLAN.

WAKE UP, CHILD.

DYLAN.

IT IS TIME...

DYLAN.

DO NOT BE AFRAID...

DYLAN.

IT IS TIME.

DYLAN. DYLAN, LISTEN TO ME...

S-STOP IT! GET OUT OF MY HEAD!

CALM YOURSELF, CHILD. I AM NOT HERE TO HURT YOU...

DYLAN... REMAIN CALM. LISTEN TO ME...

YOU...

MY HIVE. MY...REBELLIOUS CHILDREN...

YOU ARE SPECIAL. SOMETHING NEW.

THEY MADE YOU TO DESTROY ME.

DYLAN... CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I CAN HEAR YOU. WAIT...WHO ARE YOU?

BUT... AS YOU CAN SEE...

...THAT WILL NOT COME TO PASS. YOUR CHAMPIONS HAVE FALLEN. THIS PLANET IS MINE. AND YOU...

...YOU HAVE FAILED.

I'M A FRIEND. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN HOLD THIS CONNECTION OPEN, BUT I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME. I CAN GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

KNULL HAS MADE A MISTAKE BRINGING YOU HERE. YOU CAN USE HIM. USE YOUR POWERS TO BREAK INTO HIS HIVE.

BUT YOU NEED NOT DIE HERE LIKE THE REST.

YOU ARE SPECIAL TO ME.

YOU ARE...IN MANY WAYS...

DYLAN?!

...MY SON.

YOU CAN DO THIS! FOCUS. **LISTEN TO ME.** YOU CAN TAP INTO HIS POWERS WITH YOURS.

YOU CAN USE HIM AS AN ANTENNA TO CONTROL--

SHUT UP!!!

I WILL GIVE YOU THE DARKNESS. TOGETHER WE WILL END THIS WAR.

JOIN ME...

...OR I WILL BURN THIS WORLD TO THE GROUND.

YES...

THAT'S A GOOD BOY.

YOU...

I'VE GOT THIS.

...KILLED MY DAD.

AGHHHH!

YES! DYLAN, QUICKLY! NOW REACH OUT **THROUGH** HIM!

THROUGH **THE HIVE MIND!**

YES! YOU'RE DOING IT! YOU'RE FREEING THEM!

I KNOW IT HURTS!

AGHH!!! IT'S--IT'S TOO MUCH!

KEEP GOING! KEEP PUSHING!

NGH! I CAN'T...

JUST A FEW MORE TO GO! WE ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT THIS!

HOLD... ON!

FIRE AND SOUND DON'T HURT THESE SYMBIOTES, BUT I HAVE A PLAN.

WE'LL NEED **LIGHTNING...**

...AND MAGIC!

AHH!!! STRANGE! HELP! I CAN'T--

FELICIA!

AGHHHH!

DOCTOR STRANGE!!! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

YES...YES, I CAN HEAR YOU.

A LITTLE LATE IN THE GAME, NO?

I DOUBT IT.

CAME AS FAST AS I COULD. NOW LISTEN--I'M DOWNLOADING A BATTLE PLAN INTO YOUR HEAD. THIS MIGHT HURT.

MY STAFF, FELICIA. *QUICKLY.*

WHO WERE YOU JUST TALKING TO? WHAT'S GOING ON?

THERE APPEARS TO BE A RATHER... ***INTENSE*** PLAN FORMING. AND I, FOR ONE, AM QUITE TIRED OF SITTING ON THE SIDELINES...

KNULL BELIEVES HIMSELF A *GOD*...

KARRAACK

...WELL, THEN...

...TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME.

OKAY. LINKING EVERYONE NOW.

CYCLOPS.

INVISIBLE WOMAN.

HUMAN TORCH.

DOCTOR STRANGE.

THOR.

ON MY MARK.

GO!

ZAARK

GO!

BWAAA

GO!

FWASHH

GO!

GOOD! NOW PUSH!

WE NEED TO FUNNEL THEM INTO THE CENTER OF THE CITY!

NAMOR.

YOU'RE UP.

ABOUT TIME.

BOOOM

UM...GUYS? DID I MISS A MEETING OR SOMETHING?

SPIDER-MAN, GET OUT OF THERE! INCOMING!

NOW YOU TELL ME!

KLANG

WE'RE CLEAR!

STORM!

THOR!

LIGHT IT UP!

MY PLEASURE.

AYE.

KA-KA-KA-

DYLAN! GET OUT OF THERE!

AGGHH!

NO!

GRK

YOU...YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME, CHILD? WOUND ME THROUGH MY HIVE?!

YOU THINK YOU'VE WON?!

BUT YOU HAVE NOT BEATEN ME, BOY!

AND YOU ARE ALONE! NO ONE IS COMING TO—

ACTUALLY, THAT'S WHERE I COME IN.

WHO--WHO IS THERE? SHOW YOURSELF! WHO DARES ENTER MY MIND?!

I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN INTRODUCED.

AGGHHH!

MY NAME IS JEAN GREY.

NOW...

...LET'S SEE WHAT MAKES YOU BLEED.

OH...

OH GOD... HIS MIND... IT'S...

"...COLD...

"I CAN'T... I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING...

"I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING THAT CAN HURT HIM...

"HE--HE FORGED THE DARKNESS...

"...BENT IT TO HIS WILL...

"HE'S BEATEN EVERYTHING...

"HE... OH GOD...

"THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN..."

WAIT...

"THERE IS...

"THERE IS ANOTHER...

"A *REACTION.*

"AN *OPPOSITE.*

"KNULL...HE'S THE GOD OF THE ABYSS.

"BUT HE IS NOT *THE DARKNESS.*

"IT--THE DARK--IT EXISTED *LONG* BEFORE HIM.

FLA-BOOM

"AND WITH *DARKNESS...*

"...THERE IS *LIGHT.*

"IT ROSE UP AGAINST HIM.

"IT...IT BONDED ITSELF WITH WARRIORS TO RAGE AGAINST HIM.

"THE LIGHT... IT WAS... SENTIENT... *ALIVE...*

"IT GAVE THIS ARMY... UNIMAGINABLE POWER.

"BUT...IT WASN'T ENOUGH...

"THE LIGHT...IT WAS YOUNG THEN...

"...OVERWHELMED BY THE DARKNESS...

"...STRETCHED TOO THIN...

"AND SO... IT...

"IT BECAME SOMETHING *NEW...*

"IT...WOULD CHOOSE A SINGLE BEING IN *ALL OF THE UNIVERSE...*

"BOND WITH THEM.

"MAKE THEM BETTER.

"MAKE THEM POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STAND AGAINST THE DARK..."

OH GOD...

IT'S...A SYMBIOTE...

IT'S HIS OPPOSITE...

"A GOD...

"...OF LIGHT!"

IT'S... IT'S...

JEAN!

JEAN... WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S--

IT'S HERE...

THE GOD OF LIGHT...

IT'S HERE. TRYING TO GET IN... BUT...BUT IT CAN'T...

"IT'S TRAPPED...

"I CAN HEAR IT...

"IT'S..."

...SCREAMING...

JEAN.

WORRY NOT...

I AM HERE.

FSSSS

I SEE THE LIGHT.

IT CANNOT BREAK THROUGH. IT CANNOT PASS THE BARRIER.

BUT I CAN.

BOOOOOM

SPLATCH

SPLINCH

SLURCH

SPLINCH

SPATCH

NO!!!

SPORTCH

OH...

I SEE...

YOU ARE NOT HERE... FOR *ME*...

GO, THEN...

"...GO AND FIND YOUR WARRIOR."

VWAAAAAAAAAAA

OH MY GOD...

JEAN... THESE READINGS... THIS *ENERGY SOURCE.*

YOU'RE RIGHT... IT BEHAVES JUST LIKE A SYMBIOTE. IT ALWAYS *HAS...*

THIS... GOD OF LIGHT...

I-- *I KNOW WHAT IT IS.*

WE *ALL* DO...

WE'VE JUST BEEN CALLING IT BY THE WRONG NAME...

HEH...

"CAPTAIN UNIVERSE."

...FINALLY...

...THE *ENIGMA FORCE...*

...SOLVED.

BOOSTER GOLD

FWAAAAAA

EDWARD BROCK

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

#1 SECOND-PRINTING VARIANT BY RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & FRANK MARTIN

CHAPTER FIVE

DAWN

THEY STAND.

TOGETHER. AS ONE.

DEFIANT...

...IN DARKNESS.

ALL OF THEM RISING AGAIN AND AGAIN...

...AS MY SHADOW REIGNS OVER THEM.

I CAN FEEL THEM.

YOU... SURFER... WE HAVE MET BEFORE. YES?

FEEL THEIR STRENGTH.

INDEED WE HAVE.

AND I REMAIN *UNIMPRESSED*, KNULL...

THEIR LIGHT...

THERE IS ANOTHER NOW. A *GOD OF LIGHT.*

SHING

YES. SO I HAVE HEARD.

BUT YOU, ABOVE ALL, SHOULD REMEMBER...

...NO MATTER HOW FAST LIGHT TRAVELS...

THEIR ANGER.

...DARKNESS IS ALWAYS THERE.

WAITING.

IN A WAY...I ADMIRE YOU, LITTLE LIGHT.

I WILL REMEMBER YOU. YOU WILL DIE A NOBLE DEATH...

THEIR FEAR.

THEIR CERTAINTY...

PERHAPS...

...BUT I SHALL NOT FACE IT ALONE.

...THAT THEY WILL LOSE.

AVENGERS!

ASSEMBLE!

BWOOM

BUT THEY ARE WRONG.

BECAUSE WE ARE STRONGER WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER.

I APPRECIATE THE ASSISTS, FELLAS.

AND I'M BACK.

...BUT WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

EDDIE...?

SO... ...THIS IS IT, THEN.

THE GREAT GOD OF THE LIGHT HAS CHOSEN A HOST THAT I HAVE KILLED...HOW MANY TIMES NOW?

IS THIS MEANT TO...SCARE ME?

HONESTLY... YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN BEAT--

HE THINKS HE'S *BEATEN* ME. *ARROGANT.*

MJOLNIR?!

YEAH...

AND HE'S RIGHT.

...I REALLY THINK WE CAN.

KNULL KILLED ME ONCE. NO REASON IN THE WORLD I SHOULD BE HERE.

NO REASON HE SHOULD THINK HE CAN'T DO IT AGAIN.

BUT...HE DOESN'T KNOW ME.

HE'S FOUGHT *VENOM.*

MJOLNIR... HE...SUMMONED *MJOLNIR.* THAT... THAT SHOULD BE--

IMPOSSIBLE.

BUT HE'S NEVER FOUGHT *EDDIE BROCK.*

SURFER. THOR. SPIDER-MAN.

ALL OF YOU. STAY HERE.

PROTECT THE INNOCENT.

KSHANG

I'M THE MAN OF A THOUSAND SECOND CHANCES, DAMMIT.

LEAVE THIS ONE...

THE COMEBACK KING.

TO US!

VWOOOOOOOSH

RAGHHH!

WAS...WAS THAT ***EDDIE BROCK*** WIELDING A BATTLE-AX MADE OUT OF THE ***SURFER'S BOARD*** AND ***THOR'S HAMMER?*** DID...DID HE JUST ***FLY,*** OR AM I--

CYKE...LISTEN... SOMETHING'S COMING...

YEAH...GEAR UP, CYCLOPS. WE AREN'T DONE HERE.

THUM-THUM-THUM-THUM-TH

HE'S HIDING.

RUNNING.

THROWING EVERYTHING HE CAN IN MY WAY.

COME ON!

GOOD.

SPAWN

BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME...

...WE'RE HAVING *FUN.*

GAME FACES, EVERYONE!

WE HAVE INCOMING!

THUM THUM THUM THUM THUM

STOP HIDING!

COME OUT AND END THIS, YOU--

YOU WANT YOUR END, LITTLE HOST?!

SPAK

THEN LET ALL-BLACK BE YOUR--

NO.

NO MORE.

NO MORE SWORDS.

NO MORE DRAGONS.

TSSS

HOW--HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

KEEP PUSHING!

THUM THUM THUM THUM THUM THUM

HURK

JUST YOU.

NO!

AND ME.

KABASH

YOU WANTED DARKNESS?!

I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT, YOU SON OF A--

HEH. YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE DARKNESS.

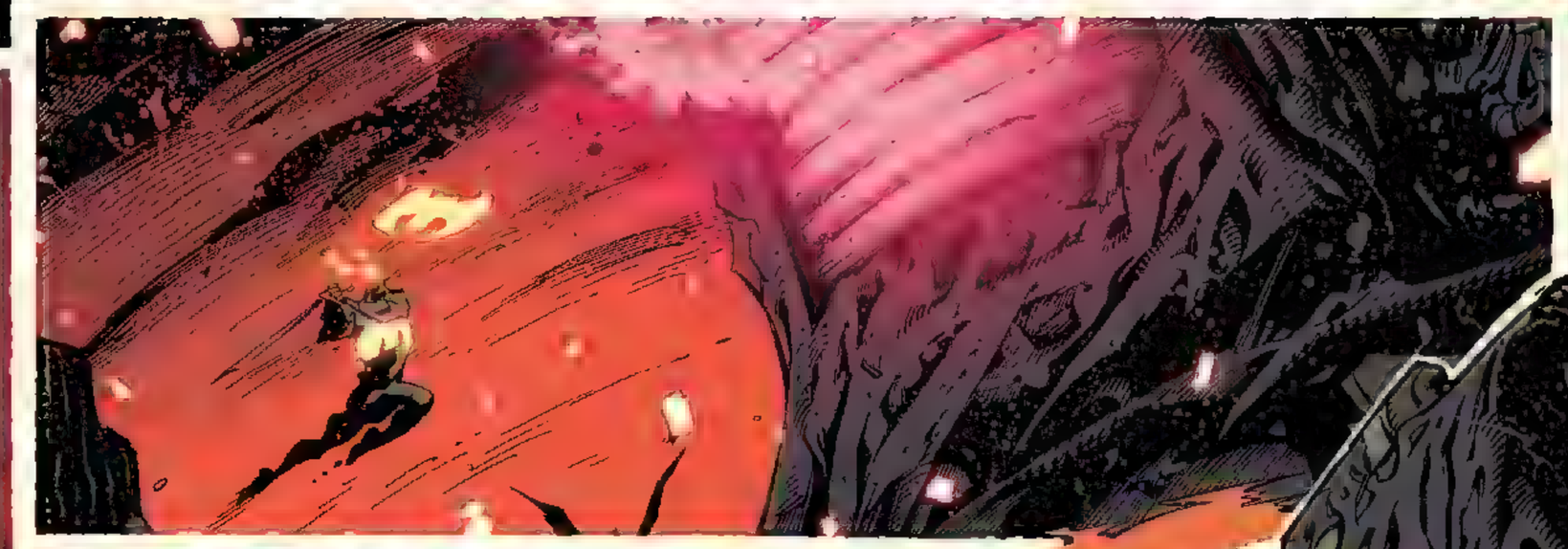
THE CELESTIAL! IT *MOVES!* EVERYONE, QUICKLY--

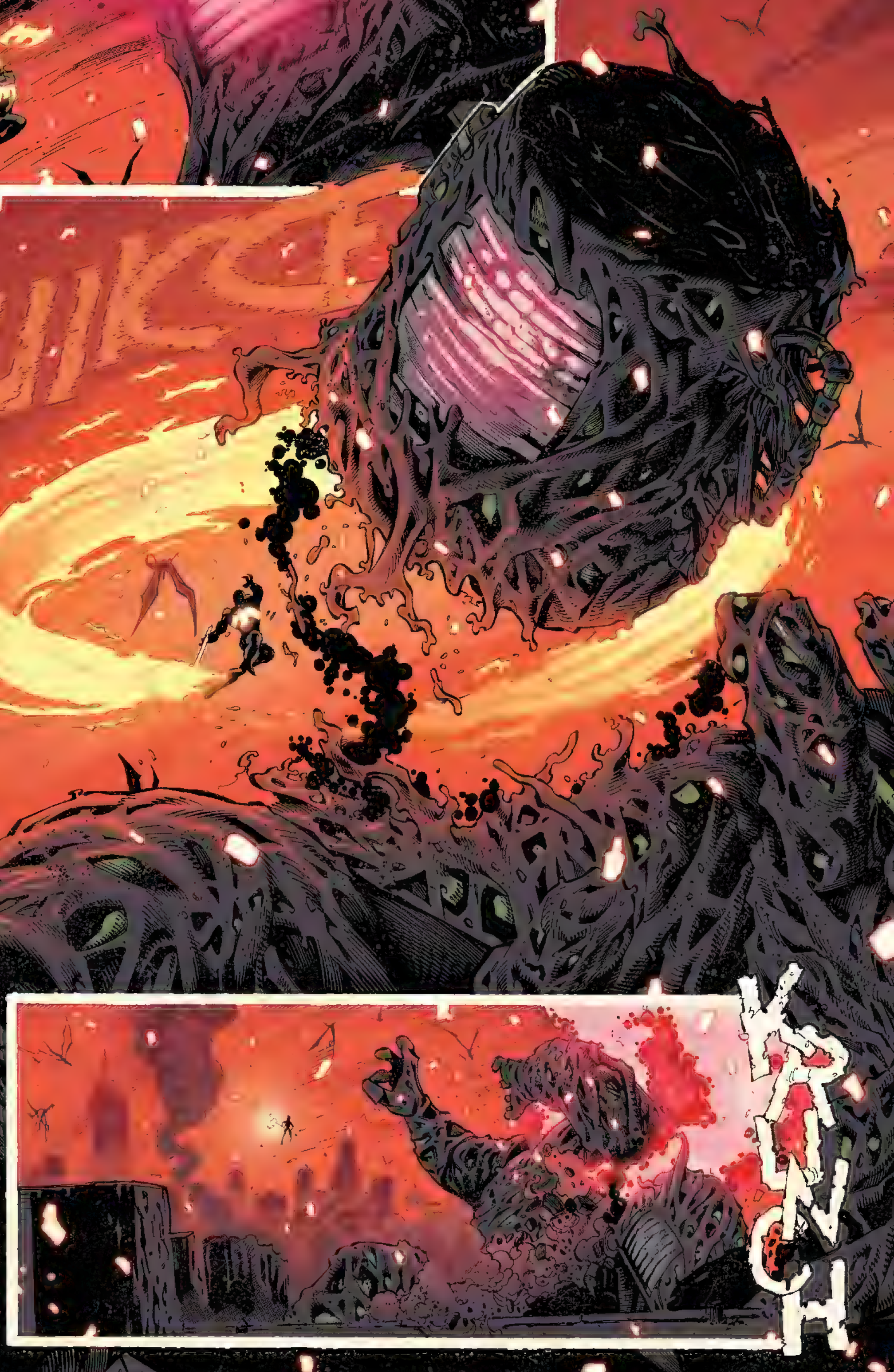
CRASH

WHRRRR

LET ME REMIND YOU.

BOOM





I DON'T NEED A REMINDER.

WHOA! SORRY, JUST... YOU KNOW...

...FIGHTING DRAGONS OVER HERE.

MAN...

...I *HATE* THIS SYMBIOTE STUFF.

I REMEMBER WHEN YOU DRAGGED ME UP HERE FROM THE SEWERS.

ALL THE PAIN. THE FEAR. THE AGONY AS YOU RIPPED MY *OTHER* FROM ME.

YOU--YOU CAN'T--

I REMEMBER ALL OF IT.

KILL

HAK

HAK

HAK!

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT I REMEMBER THE MOST?

I REMEMBER FEELING HOPELESS.

HELPLESS.

I REMEMBER *FALLING.*

BOOM

GET UP.

WE AREN'T DONE.

TOSS

YOU... YOU CAN'T...

YOU CAN'T WIN.

YOU MAY KILL ME...BUT THE DARKNESS...

...IT LIVES...

...IN YOUR SON.

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT MY SON?!

SNATCH

LET'S GO TALK.

YOU...YOU WILL NEVER BE FREE OF ME...

THE VOID...IT IS ETERNAL...

THE DARKNESS HAS TEETH, CHILD.

YEAH?

SPOOM

SO DO WE.

WAAA

WE MIGHT ALL BE **SWALLOWED** BY IT.

WE MAY ALL **LOSE.**

WE MAY ALL BE **CONSUMED** BY THE VOID...

...DOOMED TO DROWN IN YOUR **KINGDOM OF BLACK.**

BUT... I DON'T CARE.

AGHHHH!

THIS...

THIS IS FOR *DYLAN.*

EDWARD... DO YOU FEEL IT?

I... YES. IT'S... VOICES...

...CALLING TO ME, BUT...BUT I CAN'T... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

YOU'VE DONE IT.

THEY ARE SING-ING TO YOU, EDWARD...

KNU...

HE IS GONE...

HIS HIVE...

THEY ARE...

...THEY ARE FREE.

VICTORY! FINALLY, OUR NATION SHALL BE RECOGNIZED FOR THE NOBLE STATE THAT IT IS! HAIL *CHERNOBYL!* HAIL *DRACULA!*

DID YOU REALLY THINK WE WOULD LET YOU WALK AWAY, DAY WALKER?!

HONESTLY? I WAS KINDA HOPING YOU WOULDN'T.

SHOO

AYY

BLADE! COME IN. DO YOU NEED BACKUP?!

NAH. I'M GOOD.

HEH...GOOD, EH?! TELL ME... WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT WE DO NOT?

WHAT DO I KNOW?

ERASED

I KNOW WHAT *TIME IT IS.*

SHUNK

BLADE. ARE WE CLEAR?

I DON'T KNOW A WHOLE LOT ABOUT THESE SYMBIOTES, M...

...BUT FROM WHERE *I'M* STANDING...

...YEAH, MAN...

...WE'RE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

BOARD, TO ME.

MJOLNIR.

IT WOULD APPEAR THE BATTLE HAS BEEN WON.

INDEED. THE BATTLE IS DONE, THOR.

HOWEVER...

"...I DO NOT THINK THINGS WILL EVER BE THE SAME."

EDDIE...

IS... IS THAT REALLY YOU?

KNULL... IS HE...?

...HEH... YEAH. YEAH, MORE OR LESS.

OH MY GOD, EDDIE...

...YOU DID IT.

CLAP

IT'S OVER.

NO...

...IT'S NOT.

AAGH! NO! NO!

DYLAN... IT'S ME.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

D-DAD?

HEY, KIDDO.

WHAT'S WRONG? TALK TO--

DAD!

IT'S OKAY. I'M HERE.

NOW...YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME, OKAY? I *LOVE YOU.*

YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.

IT--IT HURTS...INSIDE ME... IT...

I'M STILL... I HAVE A PIECE OF HIM...AND-- AND I...

I CAN FEEL HIM... BURNING...

I KNOW, SON.

TRY TO BREATHE.

THIS IS GOING TO HURT.

AAGHHH!

I KNOW. I KNOW, SON.

I KNOW IT HURTS.

I FEEL IT TOO.

BUT I MADE YOU A *PROMISE.*

YOU WILL NOT INHERIT THIS DARKNESS.

WHAM

WAIT... WHAT--WHAT'S HAPPENING?

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, EDWARD.

BUT I MUST LEAVE YOU. YOU DO NOT NEED THE LIGHT TO PROTECT YOU.

NOT ANYMORE.

BUT...I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW WILL I--

YOU HAVE A NEW ROLE NOW, EDWARD.

YOU HAVE BECOME SOMETHING ELSE.

SOMETHING NEW.

EDDIE. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I FOUND YOU.

DAD! DAD, ARE YOU OKAY?! WHAT'S--

YES. I CAN HEAR YOU!

CAN YOU FEEL IT, EDDIE?

CAN YOU FEEL WHAT HAS HAPPENED?!

EDDIE... WHAT IS THIS?!

IT'S OKAY.

I CAN...I CAN HEAR THEM...

WE'RE OKAY.

STAY HERE. I'LL...WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK, SON.

...I CAN HEAR THEM ALL.

THE HIVE... BUT I CAN'T... I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEM.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT...WHAT IS GOING ON? WHY ARE THE SYMBIOTES CHASING HIM LIKE THAT?

I...I DON'T THINK THEY *ARE*...

THEY ARE SPEAKING TO YOU IN OUR ANCIENT TONGUE, EDDIE.

BECAUSE YOU...YOU DEFEATED THE VOID.

YOU FREED OUR KIND.

YOU ARE THE HIVE MIND NOW...EDDIE...

...YOU...ARE THE GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES...

YOU ARE THE KING IN BLACK.

#1 VARIANT BY **DONNY CATES**

HEIRS TO THE THRONE

While his focus on Earth is a recent development, Knull has been readying himself for a war against the light and life for eons, and **the symbiotes,** while arguably Knull's most dangerous and perfect creations were certainly not the first...

KNULL

The god and creator of the symbiotes, Knull is the ruler of THE ABYSS, the existential chasm between the destroyed previous universe and the prime reality that took its place. Swearing vengeance on every living thing birthed by ***the Celestials***, Knull gave life to creations of his own...

THE NECROSWORD

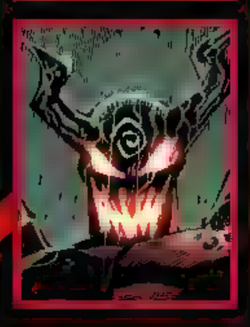
Death itself made manifest, the ***Necrosword***, or **All-Black**, was forged in the core of a dead Celestial. The first weapon Knull formed in his war against the light, it is capable of slaying Celestials and can be summoned from the living darkness of which the symbiotes are composed.

THE VOID KNIGHT

Born to combat the ***Silver Surfer***, the ***Void Knight*** would perhaps rank as one of Knull's favorite creations, were the God-King of the Symbiotes capable of such sentiment. The Lord of the Abyss felt a kinship with this powerful and dangerous creation and almost felt regret when the Surfer erased it

THE SYMBIOTES

Before Knull encountered Thor, he realized that his dragons would not be numerous enough to extinguish life in the universe and return it to its blissful state before the existence of the Celestials. So he began to experiment, manipulating ***darkness*** into a living form. In time, Knull realized that rather than eradicating life, he could simply **corrupt** it.



DARK CARNAGE

Trapped, Knull reached into the psychic darkness of his symbiotic creations, hoping to psychically connect with any receptive host. He did this for lifetimes until he found one in **Cletus Kasady**. Long dead, Kasady's corpse was obtained by an Earthbound cult that has worshipped Knull for generations. Bonded to the last remnants of an incinerated symbiote dragon, Kasady was resurrected as a new **Dark Carnage** and unleashed absolute chaos on an unsuspecting New York and world...

THE SYMBIOTE DRAGONS

Though their origins remain shrouded in mystery, the symbiote dragons were created to surge through space and destroy any life they encountered. Not shackled by vulnerabilities to sonics and fire (unless in the most ***extreme*** amounts), they even reached as far as the Milky Way galaxy and Earth's local solar system. Tormenting humankind, they served as inspiration for chapters of Earth's shared mythology and manifested Knull's wrathful will on an unsuspecting universe.

THE EXOLON

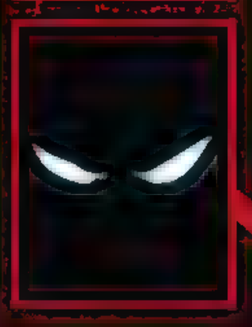
With each attempt at controlling the living Abyss, Knull grew closer to a perfected design. The place he sent the less-successful of his experiments became known as the Exoteric Latitude. An as-yet relatively unexplored region of space, the **Exoteric Latitude** is home to the **Exolon**, creatures that, true to their nature, found hosts in a group of unwitting Kree who happened to drift through their corner of the universe.

THE SYMBIOTE HIVE

As the symbiote species grew, Knull remained psychically connected to all of them. What was once a few dragons or symbiotes became a teeming hive mind with Knull at its center. Ultimately, that connection proved to be his undoing, as his creations rebelled and entombed him at the heart of what would come to be known as the symbiote homeworld, **Klyntar**.

OTHER EXPERIMENTS

Evidence suggests that there are other organisms in the universe that Knull created, adrift among the stars. Whatever their origins, one thing is certain — Knull has ***some*** psychic sway over them.



PRE-CREATION

Knull forges the Necrosword and begins the experiments that would eventually become the symbiote species and its offshoots. **(VENOM #1-6, SILVER SURFER: BLACK)**

~1000 BCE

Knull, encased in symbiote armor, battles a mysterious golden god on the homeworld of Gorr the God Butcher. **(THOR: GOD OF THUNDER #6)**

~700 CE--1970

Encased in ice at the bottom of the ocean, the Grendel lies dormant, lost to time.

~ONE YEAR AGO

After the dissolution of S.H.I.E.L.D., the frozen Grendel symbiote breaks out of containment and unleashes its fury on an unsuspecting New York City. Aided by the younger Spider-Man, Eddie Brock incinerates the monster, but **the Maker** acquires a small sample of its remains. **(VENOM #1-6)**

~THREE MONTHS AGO

Dark Carnage launches an all-out assault on the remaining living symbiote hosts, including Venom. With no choice, the Venom symbiote absorbs the Grendel from Cletus Kasady and is once again subsumed into Knull's hive. With enough of the Codex restored to free himself, Knull disperses the symbiotes that form the planet Klyntar around him and re-forms them into a horde of hundreds of thousands of dragons — and begins a death march across the universe... **(ABSOLUTE CARNAGE)**

~TWO WEEKS AGO

Eddie Brock warns the Avengers that the Codex is complete and Knull has begun a campaign across the galaxy. Before they can properly mount a counteroffensive and extract all possible intel from Brock, he is swept into the timestream after being ambushed by Mac Gargan. **(FREE COMIC BOOK DAY: SPIDER-MAN/VENOM 2020)**

~100,000 YEARS AGO

Knull dispatches the dragon symbiotes into the universe to eradicate all life. **(VENOM #4)**

~600 CE

The dragon symbiotes arrive on Earth and attack humankind in Scandinavia. Mistaking the creature for an Earthbound beast, humankind names it **Grendel**.

Thor comes to their aid and dispatches the dragon with a bolt of lightning. His attack causes a feedback loop within Knull's symbiote hive that incapacitates the god-king. The symbiotes rebel and entomb their creator. **(VENOM #1-6)**

~1971

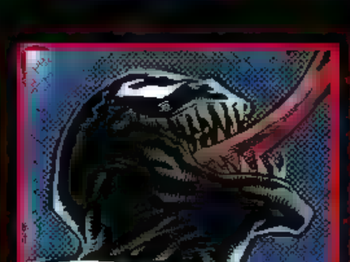
Led by Nick Fury, S.H.I.E.L.D. locates and excavates the Grendel, sampling its genetic material and exposing United States service members to it in small doses. **(WEB OF VENOM: VE'NAM)**

~TEN MONTHS AGO

The Maker's sample of the Grendel is stolen from his laboratory by a cult that has worshipped Knull for generations. Also in possession of the corpse of Cletus Kasady, the cult bonds the Grendel's remains to Cletus', and the result is the creation of a new **Dark Carnage**. **(WEB OF VENOM: CARNAGE BORN)**

~ONE MONTH AGO

The interstellar warrior and Guardian of the Galaxy called **Wraith**, convinced that Knull is responsible for the parasitic Exolon that gave him his abilities, arrives at the planet Klyntar. Knull, now freed, acknowledges that the Exolon are one of his experiments and strips Wraith of them. Dying without the Exolon, Wraith teleports to Earth to warn Eddie Brock that Knull is free. **(WEB OF VENOM: WRAITH)**



VENOM

Years ago, disgraced reporter Eddie Brock stumbled upon an alien organism during one of the lowest points of his life. Severed from its own collected consciousness, the symbiote found a willing partner in Brock, and the two became **Venom**, a vigilante in their own right, who eliminated the criminal element with extreme prejudice.

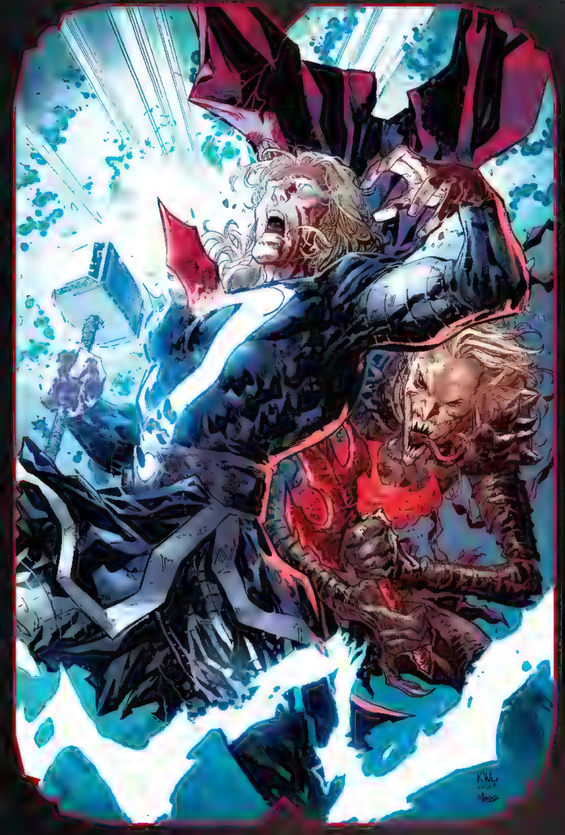
#1-4 TATTOO VARIANTS BY **IAN BEDERMAN**

#5 TATTOO VARIANT BY
IAN BEDERMAN

#1 SPOILER VARIANT BY
TAURIN CLARKE

#1-4 TATTOO VARIANTS BY **IAN BEDERMAN**

#2 SPOILER VARIANT BY
DECLAN SHALVEY



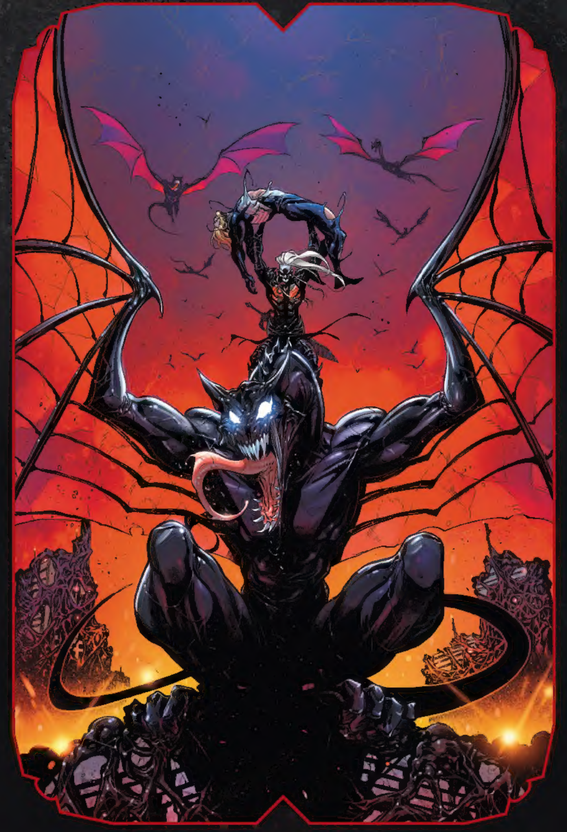
#3 SPOILER VARIANT BY
KEN LASHLEY & NOLAN WOODARD

#4 SPOILER VARIANT BY
PAOLO RIVERA

#5 SPOILER VARIANT BY
RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & JASON KEITH

#3 DRAGON VARIANT BY
DECLAN SHALVEY

#4 DRAGON VARIANT BY
RAHZZAH



#1 DRAGON VARIANT BY
IBAN COELLO & JESUS ABURTOV

#2 DRAGON VARIANT BY
JOSHUA CASSARA & DEAN WHITE

#5 DRAGON VARIANT BY
GERARDO SANDOVAL & ERICK ARCINIEGA

#1 LAUNCH VARIANT BY
PHILIP TAN & SEBASTIAN CHENG

#1-5 CONNECTING VARIANTS BY
LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO

#1 WRAPAROUND VARIANT BY
TODD NAUCK & RACHELLE ROSENBERG

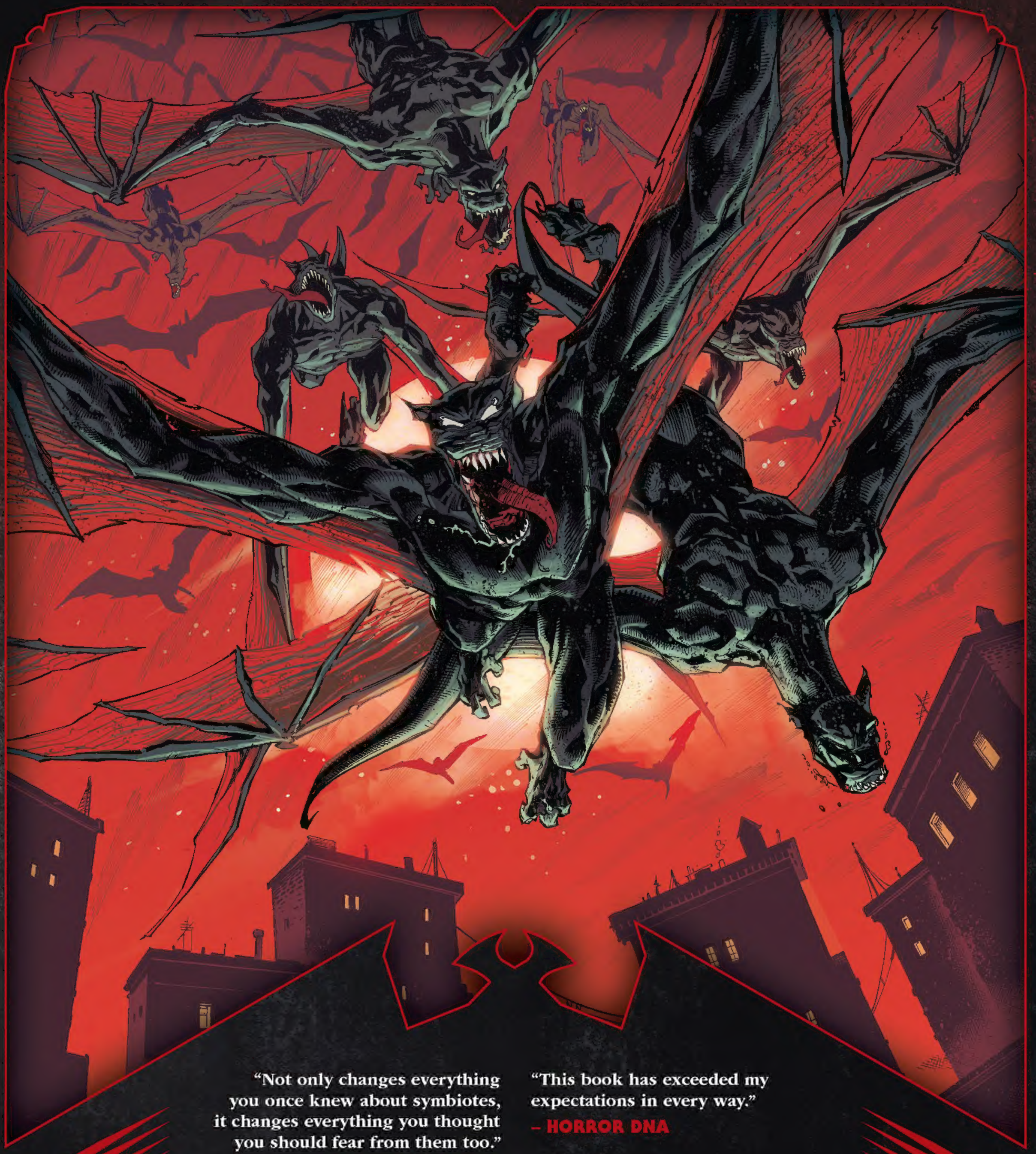
#1 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT BY
ALEX HORLEY

#1 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY
NATACHA BUSTOS

#2 SECOND-PRINTING VARIANT BY
GERARDO SANDOVAL & JASON KEITH

#5 VARIANT BY
SKOTTIE YOUNG & JEAN-FRANÇOIS BEAULIEU

#5 WRAPAROUND VARIANT BY
BRETT BOOTH, ADELSO CORONA & NOLAN WOODARD



"Not only changes everything you once knew about symbiotes, it changes everything you thought you should fear from them too."
– BEYOND THE PANEL

"This book has exceeded my expectations in every way."
– HORROR DNA

DARKNESS REIGNS!

After a campaign of terror across the galaxy, **Knull** reaches Earth — and he hasn't come alone! With an army of hundreds of thousands of symbiote dragons at his command, the **King in Black** is a force unlike any Earth's heroes have ever faced. Eddie Brock, A.K.A. **Venom**, has seen firsthand the chaos that even one of Knull's monsters can wreak. Can anyone possibly survive this onslaught? Outgunned and outmanned, Earth's heroes are reeling. It will take everything they've got to face the God of the Abyss as he ensnares the planet in everlasting darkness! **Donny Cates** and **Ryan Stegman** present the definitive chapter in their three-year-long VENOM saga that changed everything you thought you knew about symbiotes — and they're raising the stakes for the entire Marvel Universe! Hail to the king!

COLLECTING *KING IN BLACK #1-5* — BY DONNY CATES, RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER AND FRANK MARTIN.

MARVEL